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SUBJECT Activities of the Arab
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ORIGIN [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT

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1. With the view of eventually holding elections, the Arab Higher Executive is reportedly organizing so called "National Committees" in the various districts of Palestine. Their function is to enlist potential voters who qualify through the payment of dues, commonly referred to as "shekels." (See [REDACTED] for more complete information on the Shekel plan.) It is believed that the National Committees will eventually elect a Council, which in turn will elect the Arab Higher Executive. The most distinguished citizens of their respective communities are allegedly invited to serve on the National Committees.

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The present AHE is being accused constantly of trying to avoid elections rather than promoting them. The Arab League of National Liberation, for example, through its organ, Al-Ittihad, along with sharp criticism of the AHE, voiced the urgent need for elections to the AHE and for an inter-party understanding on a policy against imperialism. The Palestine Communist Party organ, Qol ha-'Am, fully supported Al-Ittihad in its view that the Arab Higher Executive does not represent the will of the people.

2. In its endeavors to create a united front, the Arab Higher Executive is engaged at present in a campaign encouraging the "let by-gones be by-gones" policy. This policy reportedly aims at settling all kinds of differences among the Arabs themselves, such as conflicts over land sales, collaboration with the Jews, etc. The AHE is believed to be attempting to draw into its circles all the discontented, recalcitrant elements and to provide a common ground for settling of disputes by careful handling and persuasion.

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3. It is reported that Ahmad Hilmi Pasha's Arab National Fund (Sanduq al-Ummah) has been incorporated within the AHE sphere of influence. The incorporation, however, took place on the condition that the Arab National Fund retain its own identity and not be merged with the Treasury of the AHE, under Dr. Izzat Tannous. [REDACTED] that plans are being made to incorporate the Arab National Fund with the Treasury, and that it is for that reason that Salim 'Abd-al-Rahman has been appointed as a director of the Arab National Fund.

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Comment: The actual position of 'Abd-al-Rahman is Chairman of the subcommittee dealing with the saving of Arab lands.

4. The AHE is also reportedly sponsoring a new scheme, which is becoming known as the "Dunam Plan"; although credit for the incentive of this plan purportedly belongs to the Arab League. This new plan is to insure that every Arab is solicited for funds to be used specifically for the purchase of land in Palestine. Once the land is bought, it is to be registered in the name of the donor, whose name will then be inscribed in the "Golden Book for Saving of Palestine Land." The Dunam Plan is reportedly designed to purchase other available lands in the country, such as German-owned properties and State lands, in addition to fulfilling functions more or less similar to the Arab National Fund in the preservation of Arab-owned land.
5. The AHE is reported to be concerning itself with Youth Organizations, in addition to its other interests. Rafiq al-Tamimi, a member of the AHE, continues in charge of the Youth Organization, originally established by the Mufti, despite the fact that the fusion of Najjadah and Futtuwa has been accomplished through the placing of the merged organizations under Mahmud Labib, the former commander, who has since left Palestine. According to source, the merger was engineered by the AHE for the purpose of dispensing with Muhammad Nimr Hawari, leader of Najjadah, whose influence over the members of Najjadah was becoming so great as to be viewed with concern by the Mufti himself. Although Hawari remained as one of the deputy commanders, the fact that Najjadah does no longer exist presumably precludes the possibility of Hawari's regaining control.
6. The Arab Higher Executive reportedly is contemplating maintaining representatives abroad, particularly in the United States. Such representatives are to function along the line of the Arab Offices of Musa al-Alami, although independent of the Arab Office. 'Izz al-Din al-Shawwa is reported as having established such an office in London. Al-Shawwa, an adherent of the Mufti, is a former Jenin District officer exiled from Palestine following his participation in the 1937 rebellion of Fawzi Qawuqji. Wasif Kammal and 'Isa Nakhla are allegedly to remain in New York as permanent representatives of the AHE. Akram Zu'aytar, a Palestinian Arab from Nablus and former teacher in government schools, is reportedly going to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as the AHE representative there. Zu'aytar is said to have been active during disturbances in Palestine, and had to leave the country because of those activities.

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